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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/763,111 | 02/16/2001 | Catherine Enjalbert | RN98116 | 3485 |

7590

04/01/2003

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EXAMINER

MULCAHY, PETER D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1713

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/763,111

Applicant(s)

ENJALBERT ET AL.

Examiner

Peter D. Mulcahy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 25-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Takahashi et al., U.S. Patent 5,536,448 or Morrison et al., U.S. Patent 6,433,068 or Okumura et al., U.S. Patent 5,451,632.

The Okumura patent suggests the incorporation of surface treated titanium dioxide into rubber compositions at column 13 lines 20+. The surface treated titanium dioxide can in fact be treated with those surface treating agents as instantly claimed. See specifically column 12 lines 40+. In view of this disclosure it would be prima facie obvious to formulate a mixture with the surface treated titanium dioxide and rubber as instantly claimed.

The Morrison et al. patent shows rubber compositions which can have added thereto surface treated titanium dioxide. See specifically column 4 lines 40+ as well as column 5 lines 1+. In view of this disclosure one of ordinary skill in the art would

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find it prima facie obvious to formulate applicants' instantly claimed composition.

The Takahashi et al. reference shows titanium dioxide particles which are surface treated with the treating agents as instantly claimed at column 2 lines 55+. The addition of these particles to rubber compositions as instantly claimed is rendered prima facie obvious by the list of resins bridging columns 6 and 7. Given the extensive listing of resins, it would be prima facie obvious to add these particles to a rubber as instantly claimed. It should be noted that obviousness does not require absolute predictability but rather a reasonable expectation of success. The Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success from this teaching given that the actual resin is not limited so as to exclude rubbers and one of ordinary skill in the art would have an appreciation as to the functionality of the coated pigments when added to rubbers. Applicants have failed to show or allege any unexpected results due to the addition of the titanium dioxide as claimed to the rubber as claimed. As such, the claims are rendered prima facie obvious.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter D. Mulcahy, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2449. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

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The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 305-3599.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.

P. Mulcahy:cdc
March 24, 2003



PETER D. MULCAHY
PRIMARY EXAMINER